

TALLMAN ROAD BRIDGE
Tallman Road over the Looking Glass River
Eagle vicinity
Clinton County
Michigan

HAER No. MI-91

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, P.A. 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

TALLMAN ROAD BRIDGE

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Location: Tallman Road over the Looking Glass
River, Eagle vicinity, Clinton County,
Michigan
USGS Quad: Portland
UTM: 16.683152.4743904
1880
Date of Construction: 1888 circa.

Engineer: Not known
Architect: Not known

Present Owner: Clinton County Road Commission
St. Johns, MI 48879

Present Use: Vehicular traffic (closed)

Significance: The Tallman Road Bridge is one of the
oldest metal truss bridges in Michigan
designed and built in 1880 circa.
It is a Pratt Through Truss type of
structure and one of a few left in
Michigan.

Project Information: An evaluation (1993) advised replacement
of this structure. This will entail
the removal and demolition of existing
bridge. To mitigate the adverse effect,
the State Historic Preservation Office
stipulated documentation. This documen-
tation was undertaken to fulfill this
stipulation.

Gerald Ritchie, Engineer
Clinton County Road Commission
St. Johns, MI 48879

TALLMAN ROAD BRIDGE
HAER No. MI-91 (Page 2)

Summary Description of Bridge and Setting

This bridge carries Tallman Road over the Looking Glass River in the Eagle vicinity of Clinton County, Michigan. A plate showing the date of ~~1888~~ 1880 exists on the end post of one of the truss. This is believed to be the date of construction. A similar truss type of bridge exists three (3) miles upstream on Bauer Road. A plaque on the Bauer Road Bridge indicates construction in 1880 by the Penn Bridge Works of Beaver Falls, Penn. We assume that since the structures are similar, they were constructed by the same company.

The truss has six (6) panels and a span length of 89 feet. The clear distance between trusses is 16 feet. The top and inclined members of the truss consist of two angles spaced 9 inches apart. A 10-inch wide top plate has been riveted to the top flange of the angles. The three interior vertical members are riveted between the angle's flanges to create a lattice pattern. The two exterior verticals, diagonals, and bottom chords, are flat steel or round bars.

The deck consists of transverse wood planks, 10 inches wide by 3 inches deep. The wood deck is supported by 10-inch deep steel stringers. The floor beam, at each panel point, is also a 10-inch deep I-beam.

The abutments consist of a steel pile bent and cobblestone backwall. The steel bent supports the truss. The cobblestone backwalls retain the road fill.

Two steel cables serve as the bridge railing.

The Tallman Road Bridge over the Looking Glass River is located in Section 14 and 15 of Eagle Township, Clinton County. Tallman Road is a north-south road situated on a 66 feet right-of-way. The roadway surface is gravel. The gravel averages 15 feet in width. Clark Road, a trans-county local road, intersects Tallman Road approximately 5,000 feet south of the bridge. Herbison Road intersects Tallman Road approximately 750 feet north of the bridge. Tallman Road was the principal road used by local residents when they desired to travel across the Looking Glass River.

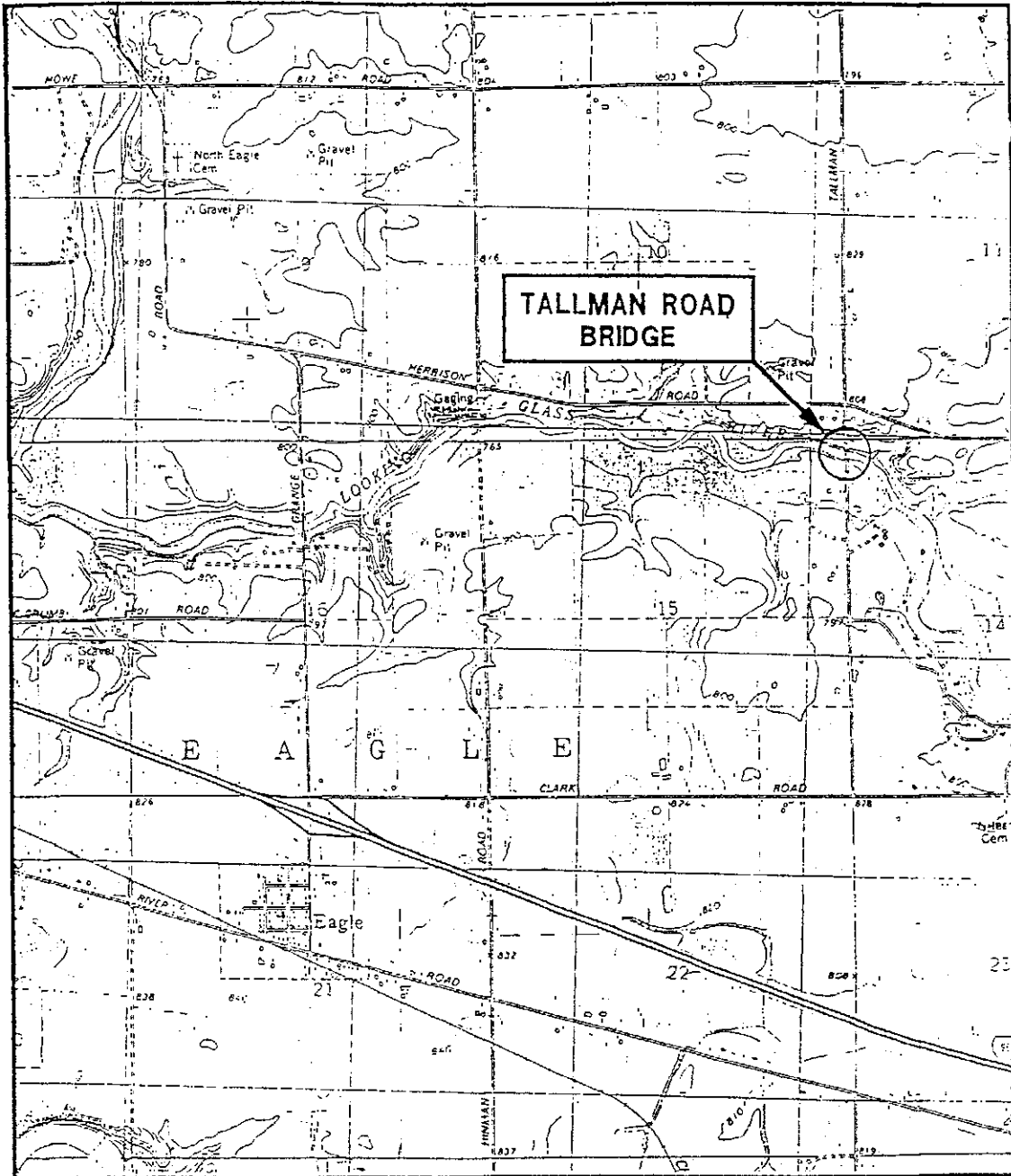
Eden Trail, located one-half mile south of the bridge, starts at Tallman Road and runs east 0.80 miles. Residential development along Eden Trail is heavy. Most of the homes front on the Looking Glass River.

Because of the structural deficiencies, this structure had to be closed to vehicular traffic. All vehicles desiring to cross the Looking Glass River in this vicinity must detour approximately four (4) miles. This creates hardships for fire and police protection, school buses, mail deliveries, etc.

TALLMAN ROAD BRIDGE
HAER No. MI-91 (Page 3)

We have searched all our files and vaults at the road commission and can find no plans, references, or history relating to the existing bridge. A local review of nearby libraries of newspapers, etc. from that era was also negative.

TALLMAN ROAD BRIDGE
HAER No. MI-91 (Page 4)



LOCATION MAP
TALLMAN ROAD BRIDGE OVER LOOKING GLASS RIVER
SECTIONS 14 AND 15 EAGLE TOWNSHIP
CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN